

## MISSIONS NOW

# Learning to serve



**FRESH PAINT** — One of the student participants in MissionsNow paints the face of a young lady at the Florence soccer fields. Other activities at the fields included passing out water, cleaning up trash, and other acts of kindness. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Youth train hands-on in South Jackson area

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Hundreds of students from across Mississippi participated in MissionsNow, a project sponsored by the youth team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board March 23-24, and hosted by Country Woods Church, Byram.

According to Tammy Anderson, consultant,

see MISSIONS on p. 5



**STORY TIME** — Students from Blythe Creek Church, Mathiston, led a Backyard Bible Club at Southside Terrace Apartments in Jackson, as part of MissionsNow. (Photo by Tony Martin)

# Mississippi tops survey

## State ranks as 'most religious' in America

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports)** — Mississippi is the most religious state in the nation while Vermont and New Hamp-

shire the least religious, according to a Gallup survey that asked respondents about their religion and their church attendance.

The survey, released March 27, is based on interviews with 350,000 adults in 2011 as part of Gallup's daily tracking poll. The poll asked respondents if religion is an important part of their daily life, and also

asked them if they attend religious services every week or almost every week.

Southern states in general are the most religious. The Northeast and Northwest states came in as the least religious. Nine of the ten most religious states are considered Southern states.

see MISSISSIPPI on p. 5



**UP, UP, AND AWAY** — Students venture into Amazing Wonders Aviation: Encountering God's Awesome Power, at the recent 2012 Vacation Bible School (VBS) preview at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. The outfits displayed by the students reflect the theme for the 2012 VBS season. (BP photo)

# VBS 2012 ready to take wings

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)** — Nearly 4,000 people attended Vacation Bible School (VBS) preview events this winter to prepare for Amazing Wonders Aviation: Encountering God's Awesome Power.

Jerry Wooley, VBS specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, described VBS previews as "great moments of bringing people together from all across the country" to build momentum for this summer's outreach.

"We host classes on crafts. We sing all the music. We teach high-tech and low-budget decorations and we look at the Bible content," Wooley said. "We do everything in VBS in a compact 24-hour period."

This year's VBS theme is drawn from Psalm 147:5: "Our Lord is great, vast in power; His understanding is infinite" (HCSB). The curriculum uses 1930s and 1940s aviation to help VBS participants encounter God and His power by exploring some of the world's greatest natural wonders.

VBS 2012 will immerse participants in daily worship before sending them on a make-believe journey from the Amazing Wonders Aviation airstrip to such wonders as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Victoria Falls in Africa, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps,

the polar Northern Lights, and Parícutin volcano in Mexico.

In addition to learning of God's power in nature, VBS participants will learn of His power over sin, death and life by exploring Bible stories with similar themes and lessons, with Wooley noting, "We want everyone who attends VBS to know the power of our awesome God."

see VBS on p. 4

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### What it took to get us here

**H**e grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. — Isaiah 53:2-9 (NIV)

Christians celebrate our risen Savior with images of the empty tomb with death clothes neatly folded on the slab of rock where Jesus was laid. Our crosses memorialize the sacrifice He made for us, and emphasize the significance of His resurrection. To those religious symbols we have added eggs, bunny rabbits, and baskets of colorful candy.

Sometimes it seems too neat and clean — almost sterile. It's an easy thing to read a few chapters of the Bible once a year or so about the mistreatment of Jesus and then go about our daily business. Perhaps we should pause during this season of victory, and contemplate exactly what it was Jesus went through to save us. It wasn't nearly as pretty as our modern images depict.

The beating that Jesus endured can hardly be imagined today, in our gentle society. All the flesh was literally torn from his back, exposing raw nerve endings and ragged muscle. On that mangled and bleeding back was placed a wooden cross, large and heavy and rough so that the pain in His still-fresh wounds would be maximized. He was beaten again as he carried his own

instrument of death to the place of the skull.

There, he was stripped naked and fastened to the cross he had carried with the large-diameter, blunt-end nails of the day that severed nerves and blood vessels with great agony. His feet were affixed in a similar manner, configured so as to make it impossible to breathe once the cross was upright.

His cross dropped with a thud into the hole where it would stand, no doubt tearing the flesh around the nails and further opening the wounds. After a short while, insects attracted from great distances by the scent of His blood settled into the open wounds.

He hung there, gasping for breath and pleading for water as those around the cross ridiculed him. The pain rose, the insects increased, the mockery rang in his ears, and yet His only plea was for His Father to forgive us.

After a prolonged period of agony, it was finished and the happy part began. The tomb was soon empty, our Savior had risen, and the world would never be the same.

We Christians have every right to celebrate the greatest event in history, the completed plan of eternal salvation for all mankind. However, let us never overlook what it took to get us to that point. It wasn't pretty, and it didn't come without unimaginable suffering, but it had to be done. The prophet Isaiah understood those facts 700 years before Christ was born. On this and every joyous Easter, we should too.

You may have noticed a few things look different in this week's issue of *The Baptist Record*. That's because a complete redesign of the newspaper that was almost a year in the making has been put into production. It's the first redesign of the newspaper in almost 16 years, and includes improvements in functionality and readability that we hope will make the newspaper even more useful to our readers.

The staff of *The Baptist Record* wishes to thank you for your prayers and support that have made this important ministry of information the second largest state convention newspaper, in terms of circulation, in the entire Southern Baptist Convention (trailing only *The Alabama Baptist*). Our goal continues to be to publish the highest-quality, Christ-centered news and information that will lead all of us to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior as we seek to fulfill His Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

## Adopting politically correct name not cure for perceived problems

**T**he author of the Guest Opinion in the March 8 issue of *The Baptist Record* [Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville] advocates that if the Southern Baptist Convention changes its name and some of its actions, our denomination's problems will have genuine solutions.

Our problems, according to this author, seem to focus on the negative reputation of the Southern Baptist Convention, infighting and bickering, lack of cooperation, and straying from our goals.

Removing the "Southern" from our name is an effort in appeasement and political correctness, and although we hear the term bandied about regularly, being politically correct usually involves saying something one would not ordinarily say so that no one is offended. It is, in fact, appeasement.

Before this popular term of "politically correct" came into existence, people used manners to handle situations.

Manners allowed a person to be truthful, yet respectful. Manners also provided a chance to be silent rather than mouthing a platitude.

Southern Baptists are known nationally and internationally (sometimes positively and sometimes negatively) for our open exercise of faith, for being people of the Bible, and for our evangelical efforts. This is a reputation we do not want to lose just to be politically correct.

It is a fact that many organizations include a regional or defining word in their names, and many of them include the word, southern, or one of its derivatives. The Southeastern Conference does not lack respect due to its name. Southern Methodist University is an internationally-renowned university and to date has suffered no political incorrectness because of its name.

It is also true that most long-established organizations and groups like the Southern Baptist Convention have



**Guest opinion**  
with Milton Baxter

historical issues that are regretful, but what happened in the past is not where we are as a denomination right now.

Where the previous author sees infighting and bickering, I see Southern Baptist tradition of examining and re-examining our faith and church polity. Differing opinions and discussion are the hallmarks of a free people.

As W.A. Criswell [late former pastor of First Church, Dallas] pointed out so wisely, Southern Baptists have no hierarchy, no voice of infallibility. We are one of the few remaining democracies where any member can comment, vote, or hold office. Everyone's voice is heard, and yes, we often hold differing views but our heritage gives every member equal standing.

As for the new, informal name for the Southern Baptist Convention — Great Commission Baptists — it is difficult to see this adoption as a cure for the convention's perceived bad reputation, or as a quick start for a good reputation.

We may be "Southern" Baptists, but we are a worldwide evangelical denomination.

We have our own traits, characteristics, and faults.

We can change our name, but in the end it is our relationship with God that makes us who and what we are.

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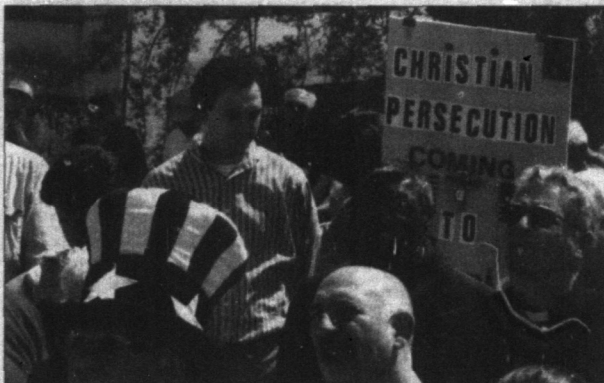
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**NO TO MANDATES** — Opponents of the Obama administration's abortion/contraceptive mandate, which forces companies and institutions to provide chemical abortions, contraceptives, and sterilizations regardless of established moral guidelines and policies, gathered in Nashville and more than 100 other cities on March 23 to protest mandates. (BP photo)

## Protestors challenge government mandates

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)** — Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land joined pro-life religious leaders and public figures on March 23 in extolling the virtues of "our glorious First Amendment," calling Americans to stand up for religious freedom in light of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) abortion/contraceptive mandates.

The Nationwide Rally for Religious Freedom was held in more than 100 U.S. cities at noon local time to mark the second anniversary of President Obama's signing of the contentious health care legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and to protest the mandate.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently examining whether the law is constitutional.

"All of the restrictions in the First Amendment are on the government, not the people," Land told the crowd, which was estimated at 500 people and had gathered on the steps on the Tennessee capitol. "Our ultimate allegiance belongs to God, not some government bureaucrat."

Under the HHS rule, all employer-provided health care plans must cover contraceptives for women without copayments or deductibles. The government's definition of contraceptives includes ones such as Plan B and "ella" that can act after fertilization, causing a chemical abortion. Only places of worship are excluded from the requirement.

Land and other speakers, including U.S. Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., warned of religious freedom repercussions if the president's health care law is upheld by the court.

"This is not a Catholic issue. It's not a Baptist issue," Land said. "It's an issue of freedom. This is about religious freedom, not reproductive freedom. This is about conscience, not contraception."

Land said that Baptists stand "shoulder-to-shoulder" with Catholics and other people of faith "for our God-given, First Amendment, religious freedom rights."

"For any human being to try to coercively interfere with another person's relationship to God is soul rape and should not be tolerated," Land said, referencing a term used by Roger Williams, an early American proponent of religious liberty and the separation of church and state.

"We are not going to allow the government to force us to fund that which we find unconscionable," Land said.

These assaults on Americans' religious liberty, Land explained, are "symptoms of a virus that has infected the federal government." The virus is "secularism," he continued, asserting the government is "intolerant of people of faith."

"Our ultimate allegiance belongs to God, not some government bureaucrat," Land said. "The government cannot interfere with our God-given freedom of conscience."

Black said the mandate "violates the law and violates our consciences." The nation's Founding Fathers never intended a government "so large and intrusive," she said.

"Your health care should be between you and your doctor," the Republican congresswoman said, suggesting some have placed the health care measure above the Constitution.

# Worth the risk

## Mali volunteers consider dangers unequal to purpose

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — Jake Hill (not his real name) was wrapping up an evening of Bible storying with a group of Malian villagers when the news came in. Soldiers were attacking Bamako, capital city of the West African country.

There was heavy gunfire, even explosions. It sounded like war.

What Hill didn't know was that low-ranking soldiers from Mali's army were staging a coup because they were angry over President Amadou Toumani Touré's alleged lack of support for their fight against Tuareg rebels in the north.

By March 2 they had overthrown Mali's government, captured Touré's presidential palace, suspended the constitution, and closed the country's borders.

Hill and the church volunteer team of seven were due to fly home to the United States the next day, but now it looked like they weren't going anywhere.

It was surreal for Hill as he sat in a small, tribal village under a star-filled sky in the peaceful African bush. The Southern Baptist church where Hill serves as a middle-school youth minister recently adopted the village. This was the church's second visit.

Confusion about the situation quickly set in as word about the fighting spread, making it difficult to sort rumor from truth. "It was like a big game of telephone. Everybody got different information and you don't really know what to believe," Hill said.

"I remember that Wednesday [March 21] when we heard that news... we just went over to our tents where we sleep and we just began to pray. No one was crying out of fear or anything like that. We didn't know how bad it was, but we knew we were safe out in the village."

By Friday morning it was clear that the team wasn't going home as planned. Soldiers had closed Bamako's airport and placed a curfew on the city. The team already had spent six days in the hot, dusty village, with no showers and only mosquito-net tents to sleep in.

"Your immediate reaction is discouragement," Hill said, "but as you talk with other team members, you start to think, 'Maybe God's got a purpose for this.'"

Coordinating with Southern Baptist workers in Mali, the team decided to remain in the village for at least another day until safe transportation to Bamako could be arranged. Hill said the team realized it was a gift: more time to spend with a people whom they dearly loved and who needed Jesus.

There are roughly 200 people who live in the village by Hill's estimate, and only a dozen or so are known believers. Persecution means many are reluctant to make their faith in Jesus public.

"The only thing the [coup] really did to us was mess up our flight plan and put some tension in our minds," he said. "We saw a lot of answers to prayer this week and saw God do a lot of great things."

"Maybe [the coup] actually helped us because it has freaked out all our families and our friends in America, forcing them to their hands and knees to pray for us because they're scared to death, thinking that we're getting shot at. We've been out in a village and they think we're some kind of heroes or something. But we haven't seen anything other than people who are hungry for the Lord."

Hill does worry the coup might deter future short-term teams. "Even the people of the village said several times as we were leaving... 'Please don't let the war and the [bad] things in Mali keep you from coming back.' ...That's their fear, that we will become afraid of this and not return to them."

Taking risks is part of the cost of following Jesus, Hill said, and waiting out a coup doesn't compare with the persecution that many Malian believers face for embracing Jesus.

"I think it would be a good slap in the face for Americans," Hill said. "[The Bible says that] if you're truly going to follow Jesus, you may not even have a place to lay your head."

"People need to realize these aren't just volunteer trips. This is part of the Great Commission. This is part of being on mission with God and part of the cost of following Jesus Christ."

"If you can literally say that I'm willing to do anything to bring God more glory and to build His Kingdom in heaven, then I guess you're ready to truly count the cost of following Jesus."



**NEW LIFE** — Southern Baptist worker Susan Roach (right) and her unnamed ministry partner among the Bambara people of Mali dote over a baby born early that morning to a Bambara mother, in a file photo taken before a coup against the government that broke out in late March. There are no reports of attacks on Southern Baptist workers in the African nation. (BP photo)

While every Sunday ought to have some Easter emphasis attached to it, this coming Sunday is Easter Sunday. What a grand and glorious day it is throughout the Christian world as the sounds are heard echoing over and over **He is alive. He is alive indeed!** Oh what a blessing this Sunday will be as again we are reminded that our Savior is not dead. We worship and serve the living Lord Jesus Christ. The singing will be magnificent. The crowds will be energized. The pastors will be blessed as they preach the Word and share that Jesus is alive forevermore.

I know that everyone is not singing it these days, but that great old song of years gone by that says, "He Arose!" still presents the message with amazing clarity. As it said,

*Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior! Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;*

*Then the last verse says, Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior! He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;*

As you prepare for this Easter Sunday when the Lord's servants will be proclaiming the unstoppable victory that is ours in Christ, I want you to think about what we are celebrating. From a biblical context and from this great old hymn of faith, let me give you about four things to think about.

**First, death cannot keep its prey!**

Death thought that it had won again. In fact, every battle had been lost by us and won by death. But Easter Sunday announces that death cannot keep its prey! The stone was rolled away. The disciples were welcomed to come inside and look



## A Living Lord

around. It has often been pointed out that the stone was moved not for Jesus to get out but for us to get in. We are welcomed to the inner sanctum with power from God among men. Jesus is alive and because He lives, we can live also.

I read somewhere recently that each day on an average there are about 250,000 deaths. Can you comprehend that? Every day death strikes and grief comes to a home and to a heart as people die. It may be the result of a tragic accident. It may be that some disease has overtaken one of our friends. Or it could be that old age has done some of its work to the point that life has been drained away, but death comes. On that day when Jesus died and was buried, the story did not end. In fact, it is at that point we are sitting on the edge of the greatest triumphant note ever spoken to humankind that God has provided for life beyond death. Jesus is caught in the grips of death and death cannot keep its prey. Death loses and Sunday we join

to celebrate that whoever and wherever anyone knows the Lord Jesus death changes eternity for Christ is alive.

**Second, may I point out to you that the Devil cannot keep his prey.**

Peter writes, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). We constantly see the results of his incredible devious ways and diabolical power over the human race. Here and there he captures a youth among us, ruins a family right near us, destroys a relationship within our sight, and robs the innocence from someone close by. He is a roaring lion just wanting to rip to shreds the precious lives in which the Heavenly Father has invested so much. The Bible says that Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He thinks that he rules and reigns. And sometimes when you and I see his handiwork wrecking so much around us we tend to think he is winning. But no, the Devil cannot keep his prey! He put

his hands on Jesus, sought to be Lord over the Lord, and it did not work. Jesus is alive and Satan, the liar, is a loser.

**Third, doubt cannot keep its prey!** Here I am referring not to Jesus but to those of us who get caught in the grasp and trap of doubt. Sometimes like Thomas we become the doubting disciple. Sometimes this old world as crass and hard as it may seem does a work on us that undermines our faith, erodes our confidence, and says to us what is the use. What is the use of going to church on Easter, the Sunday before, or after? Doubt begins to creep in and like Thomas we begin to think, well if God wants me to believe, I want to see the evidence in His hands, in His side, and in His feet. I want to see all of the scars, pain, and suffering. I want to see Him prove what He can do before I will trust Him. We become gigantic doubters of the great things of God. Then Easter comes along and says no that may not be true. You can trust the Lord.

**Finally, despair cannot keep its prey!** Here I am speaking of Jesus. I hear despair bleeding into the comments of Simon Peter in John 21 as he says, "I go a-fishing." It seems as though everything he had hoped for, invested his life in, and spent time with Jesus waiting for was all being eroded. Despair was setting in for Simon Peter. Have you ever been like Peter in that position and despair has become your song? Well, dear friend it is Easter and despair cannot keep its prey! The triumphant, incredible, and victorious Jesus comes to Simon Peter, to your heart, and to Jim and says, "All is not lost! I am alive and I am Lord." Let's tell the story and let's celebrate His power and His love. Happy Easter!

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## VBS

cont. from p. 1

During the VBS preview at LifeWay's home office in Nashville, discussion leaders encouraged attendees to pray that VBS students will personally experience God's power.

Cindi White, minister of preschoolers at First Church in Smyrna, Ga., who has been a part of VBS at the local church level for 15 years, said she was pleased with the prayer aspect of the preview.

Describing prayer as foundational to VBS success, White said, "We should be praying first and foremost for the children. God already knows who is coming to our Vacation Bible School. We need to be the them in prayer."

Dawn Tucker, early childhood minister at CrossPoint church (SBC) in Trussville, AL, and a first-time preview attendee, said she

"especially loved the information about the prayer guides and brochures" which gave prayer helps for before, during and after VBS.

"We can give these to the parents, teachers and volunteers to encourage them to participate by praying," Tucker said. "If we don't emphasize prayer, then our volunteers may run the risk of just going through their checklist of things to do for that day."

Additional 2012 VBS preview events were held at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and First Church in Kissimmee, FL.

In his session titled, Pastoral Leadership During VBS, Mike Smith, LifeWay's leadership and evangelism specialist, exchanged creative ideas for increasing prayer for VBS sessions, such as giving prayer lists to homebound church members, hosting a prayer room each Wednesday night lead-

ing up to VBS, and writing workers' names on rubber band bracelets as prayer reminders.

Smith's session also touched on how pastors can encourage and enhance their churches' VBS through intentional participation.

"Pastors can be great cheerleaders for VBS," Smith

said. "It's so crucial that pastors be team players. Interact with those kids. You will learn things about the kids, and they will learn things about you and the church."

"Once you've interacted and gotten to know some things about the kids, then you can in-

tercede and pray more specifically for them," Smith said.

"VBS is worth it," Smith said. "Because of VBS, eternity is going to be changed. Kids' lives are going to be changed. Families are going to be changed."

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 5, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



## Witnessing Through Media

### BANQUET AND WORKSHOPS 2012

May 4, 6 - 9 p.m.; May 5, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Ridgeland, Miss.

#### Workshop themes include:

Fundamentals of Camera Operation;  
Sound Advice, Basic and Advanced; Getting Started  
on the Web; Web Site Design Advanced; Lighting  
for Worship, Basic and Advanced; Getting Started  
in Media Ministry; Projection Systems & Worship  
Software; Creative Production Techniques

2012 Awards  
Banquet speaker  
**Mike Ebert**  
Vice President  
Communications  
**NAMB**



For more information contact Ian Richardson,  
Communication Services director,  
at 601-292-3378 or 1-800-748-1651 (MS only).

Cost: \$30 per person for all activities

## Grandparent Day Retreat

For Grandparents and Grandchildren  
(Children ages 6 - 15)

Saturday, April 28  
From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.



Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
6377 Attala Road 4227  
West MS 39192

For more information:  
662-289-9730

## MISSISSIPPI BSU Adopt a Summer Missionary

deadline: May 15, 2012

Your church can help support Mississippi college and university student summer missionaries in the work that God has called them to do this year. Some specific ways you can help:

-  **Pray** - these students need your daily prayers as they serve.
-  **Provide** - provide small things they may need while they serve on the field. Some ideas of what to include in a care package: Wal-mart gift cards; small toiletry items; notes of encouragement to open throughout the summer; supplies they may need for ministry.

If your church would like to adopt a Mississippi BSU summer missionary, go to our Web site, [www.missionsnow.net](http://www.missionsnow.net), choose "Churches" and "Adopt a Missionary" to complete the form online.

Contact Peggy Powell in the Collegiate Ministry Department with questions — 601-292-3299.

# PEACE LOVE & JOY

Mississippi Baptist  
State Ministry Assistants  
Conference  
April 16-17, 2012

The conference full of invaluable training, equipping, and fellowship for Mississippi ministry assistants returns this year to Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton. For more information, or to register, contact Cathy Taylor, ministry assistant, Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., at 601-292-3305 or [cwtaylor@mccb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mccb.org).

## Life Commitment Sunday

Choose a time to focus attention on God's calling to vocational ministry and the need for all believers to find their place of leadership in His work. Suggested emphasis date: April 15

Contact Alan Woodward for more information, 601-292-3308 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 308.

Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., MCB



Bethany Allen  
MC  
Europe



Jamie Allen  
JCJC  
South America



Kristie Allen  
MC  
Africa



Tate Allen  
SMCC  
Ohio



Taylor Allen  
SMCC  
SE Asia



Meg Anderson  
MC  
Canada



Thomas Arrington  
MSU  
SE Asia



Ashley Aycock  
JCJC  
Alaska



Nathan Ball  
MSU  
East Asia



Ross Ballard  
MSU  
SE Asia



MaryKate Barthel  
MC  
New York



Doris Bynum  
MC  
East Asia



Kaitlyn Campbell  
NWCC  
Asia



Kristin Carroll  
HOLMES  
Arizona



Kayla Carter  
MUW  
East Asia



Jamie Caves  
MERIDIAN  
Florida



Kristina Chambers  
MC  
Europe



Rachel Charlie  
WCU  
Oklahoma



Brittney Clanton  
USM  
SE Asia



Rachel Clark  
BMC  
SE Asia



Jenna Clendinning  
BMC  
Africa



Ashley Clinckscale  
DSU  
Indiana

# 2012

## MISSISSIPPI BSU

### SUMMER MISSIONARIES



Brett McIntyre  
USM  
New England



Katelyn McKee  
WCU-GC  
Ohio



Lori McMorrough  
DSU  
California



Rebecca Miller  
MC  
Illinois



Jedd Moak  
CO-LIN  
Massachusetts



Austin Moore  
MC  
SE Asia



Jordan Moore  
USM  
East Asia



Ashleigh Moss  
BMC  
California



Amy Osteen  
MSU  
SE Asia



Bridget Page  
USM  
SE Asia



Kynsleigh Parnell  
WCU  
SE Asia



Gracie Robinson  
NECC  
Texas



Nathan Rodgers  
BMC  
Africa



Carley Russell  
BMC  
Texas



Melanie Russell  
USM  
SE Asia



Samantha Russell  
USM  
SE Asia



Ben Sanford  
PRCC  
Indiana



Abbie Sanguinetti  
WCU  
SE Asia



Ellen Jo Seals  
MC  
Canada



Andrew Shreeley  
MC  
SE Asia



Kimberlin Singletary  
USM  
Canada



Haley Turner  
DSU  
Indiana



Sammi Tyler  
BMC  
Massachusetts



Allison Volk  
MC  
Europe



Christopher Waddell  
WCU  
SE Asia



Jamie Waldrop  
USM  
Illinois



Demetri Walker  
HINDS  
California



Kerri Walker  
USM  
Oklahoma



Kristen Walker  
USM  
Washington





Amber Burton  
USM  
SE Asia

Noah Battles  
BMC  
Arizona

Amber Blackstock  
MSU  
Texas

Jacob Blair  
BMC  
Arizona

Lane Brady  
USM  
Oklahoma

Zack Brock  
BMC  
New York

Samantha Browder  
NECC  
Washington

Loren Bruce  
MSU  
SE Asia

Melissa Bulman  
HINDS  
Indiana

Zorana Burge  
PRCC  
Maryland

Brittney Burken  
BMC  
Kansas

Daniel Burken  
BMC  
Arizona

Andrea Cobb  
BMC  
SE Asia

Chris Cole  
ICC  
Texas

Gowen Cox  
NWCC  
Tennessee

Ashleigh Davis  
USM  
East Asia

Sarah Davis  
DSU  
Canada

Matthew Dempsey  
ECCC  
Asia

Gabe Dence  
BMC  
New York

Nikki Drami  
MC  
SE Asia

Marlie Dubourg  
BMC  
SE Asia

Travis Dulaney  
ICC  
Texas

Rami Dykes  
WCU  
Africa

Brittany Farley  
South America

Steph Fields  
USM  
SE Asia

Hanna Finley  
MC  
SE Asia

Megan Fleming  
DSU  
Indiana

Heather Ford  
HINDS  
Ohio

Hannah Forsythe  
BMC  
Texas

Kristen Fowler  
MC  
Africa

Molly Gaddy  
USM  
SE Asia

Brandon Ganucheau  
USM  
Tennessee

Adam Garrett  
USM  
New York

Timothy Gatewood  
New Mexico

Ronald Gains  
USM  
Massachusetts

Patrick Goode  
WCU  
Illinois

Michael Graham  
USM  
SE Asia

Susan Green  
MC  
East Asia

Triyonna Green  
USM  
Texas

Amber Guice  
DSU  
Oklahoma

Matt Gully  
WCU  
SE Asia

Spencer Hansen  
BMC  
Indiana

Alex Hastings  
BMC  
Indiana

LeeAnna Hill  
SMCC  
Indiana

Megan Hines  
GCCC  
Texas

Jamie Hopper  
NWCC  
Kansas

Paul Howayek II  
WCU  
Kansas

Jessica Humphreys  
SE Asia

Andrew Irwin  
HINDS  
Arizona

Anna Irwin  
HINDS  
SE Asia

Amanda Izzard  
MC  
SE Asia

Lucas Jackson  
UM  
Central America

Josh Jarriel  
MSU  
New York

Jenelle Jones  
MC  
Oklahoma

Dwight Kendall  
WCU  
Canada

Alyssa Keyes  
WCU  
Illinois

Jimmy Kimmett  
BMC  
Africa

Lanie King  
UM  
New York

Andy Kirk  
NWCC  
Illinois

Nathan Kirk  
NWCC  
New York

Kevin Kittrell  
BMC  
Maryland

Jing Liao  
MSU  
Arizona

Zeb Lott  
JCJC  
Oklahoma

Kayla Mann  
CO-LIN  
South Asia

Aaron Manning  
USM  
Maine

Abbie Manning  
USM  
California

Lee McCarty  
MC  
Europe

Beth Ann McCormick  
MC  
Central America

Chad McCoy  
ICC  
Maryland

Katie McCracken  
MSU  
Canada

Tonya McGee  
JCJC  
Hawaii

Chelsea McGregor  
BMC  
Washington

John Payne  
MC  
America

Jeffery Peavy  
UM  
New York

Laurie Pettis  
MC  
East Asia

Tae Pittman  
MC  
SE Asia

Rod Pitts  
BMC  
Arizona

Sarah Joy Price  
MC  
California

Sherree Rayner  
MC  
Louisiana

Jessica Reeder  
NWCC  
Texas

Shelby Reeves  
HINDS  
Kansas

Ethan Richards  
GCCC-JC  
East Asia

Danielle Rimes  
SMCC  
Texas

Haley Roalson  
SMCC  
California

Debi Sloan  
MC  
Mexico

Breanna Smith  
MC  
North Carolina

Shan Smith  
HINDS  
Louisiana

Nick Starkey  
MC  
East Asia

Emily Sullivan  
MSU  
Texas

Ellen Taylor  
UM  
East Asia

Morgan Thompson  
DSU  
Middle East

Greg Tisdale  
MC  
SE Asia

Taylor Trigg  
PRCC  
Maine

Mary Alice Truitt  
UM  
Massachusetts

Ethan Turner  
ICC  
Canada

Katie Wallace  
MC  
Arizona

Katie Wallace  
NWCC  
Illinois

DeAron Washington  
DSU  
Africa

Levi Weeks  
CO-LIN  
SE Asia

Kayleigh White  
BMC  
Louisiana

Jennifer Williams  
USM  
Tennessee

Kelsey Williams  
MC  
Maine

Amanda Wilson  
GCCC  
California

J.T. Windham  
MSU  
East Asia

Pray this day for...

April 6 - 19, 2012

*"... Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us."*

*Romans 8:34*

Pray for: **Matthew\* and Megan\* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for a team of three from **Oakdale BC, Brandon, and Harmony BC, Crystal Springs**, traveling to Moldova and Romania to seek God's vision for Mississippi Baptist mission opportunities there.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks\***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for: **John and Claudia\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Donna\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church and home outreach, evangelism, and church planting.

Pray for: **David and Laurie\* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Teresa\* Bolls**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach, evangelism, and agriculture missions.

Pray for: **Richard\* and Wanda Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through missions strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy\* and Cindy\* DeMars**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach, evangelism, and hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **Thomas\* and Kerri Dewett**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the Dominican Republic through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

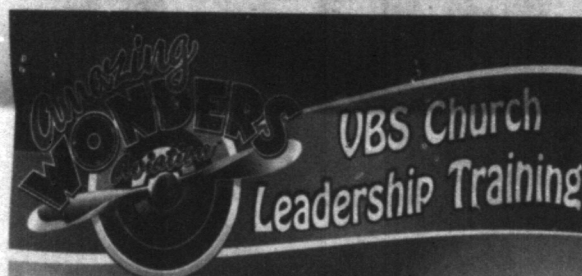
Pray for: **Alvin and Mary\* Doyle**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary as they serve other missionaries through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron\* and Tiffany Epps**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **David and Pamela\* Carlton**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through church and home outreach, evangelism, and theological education.

Pray for a team of 12 from **Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus**, traveling to Haiti to minister through construction, and children's ministry.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



6:30 - 9 p.m.

### CONFERENCES

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks
- Club VBS: Space Quest
- Conferences also offered for non-LifeWay users.
- VBS evangelism, promotion, follow-up and more.

**April 10, 2012**

Springdale BC, Ripley, MS  
FBC Wiggins, Wiggins, MS

**April 12, 2012**

FBC Eupora, Eupora, MS  
North Oxford BC, Oxford, MS

**April 17, 2012**

Liberty BC, Liberty, MS  
FBC Grenada, Grenada, MS

For more information contact Angie Boydston at  
a.boydstun@mbcb.org or  
Carolyn Day at cday@mbcb.org  
or call 1-800-748-1451, ext. 251, or 401-292-3291

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Reserve your seat today!  
Pre-register today and get a free VBS Inflatable!



**MR. JUDSON**  
**05-15-09**

Parents: Kieth & Susan  
Restricted

**MISS MARGARET WINGO**  
**6-3-04**

Parents: Floyd & Sylvia  
American Peoples

**MR. ETHAN EPPS**  
**6-15-05**

Parents: Aaron & Tiffany  
American Peoples

**MISS IZZY J**  
**6-17-02**

Parents: D & D  
Southern European  
People Group

**MR. SETH D.**  
**6-17-95**

Parents: P & D  
European Peoples

**MR. JACK**  
**06-19-03**

Parents: J & S  
Restricted

**MR. JONATHAN ROBERTSON**  
**06/23/93**

Parents: Steve & Ruth  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

**MISS MELODY W.**  
**6-24-95**

Parents: Matt & Shea  
Restricted

**MR. LEE TAYLOR ROBERTS**  
**6-29-95**

Parents: Marty & Suzanne  
European Peoples

**MISS HANNAH ROBERTSON**  
**06/30/97**

Parents: Steve & Ruth  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples



*Encourage an MK with a card!*

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

HOUSE TOPS



## MISSIONS

cont. from p. 1

Woman's Missionary Union, over two hundred participants from fifteen churches took part in the missions event. The group worked on eighteen projects across the Byram, South Jackson, Florence, and Clinton area.

"We designed MissionsNow to give youth in our state an opportunity to learn how to serve their local communities," Anderson said. "We create a lab environment in a local setting, and when they go home they can repeat and imitate what they have experienced. One of our goals is that during our event the community the students serve would be touched and the community would be impacted."

"This particular time we served in communities in transition," Anderson continued, "and we felt like our youth could have a real impact in the South Jackson area. Byram is a brand new community, so we thought that would give us a good opportunity."

The event began Friday night at Country Woods with a general session and breakout conferences. It resumed Saturday morning with a brief morning session before the students went to serve in their ministry projects. Some groups returned to the church for lunch before resuming their projects, while other groups ate at their service sites. The event concluded with one final group session at the church.

Student groups were assigned specific tasks in specific locations. Projects included patient visits at Briar Hill Rest Home in Florence; landscaping and cleaning at Byram Library; landscaping and playing with children at the Christians in Action - Emergency Children's Shelter in South Jackson; cleaning inside and outside at the Clinton Community Christian Corps in Clinton; Backyard Bible Club and kid's fun day at the Country Oaks Mobile Home park in Raymond; landscaping and helping residents at the Falcon Crest Elderly & Disabled Retirement Community in Florence; water distribution, clean up, and "acts of kindness" at the Florence soccer fields; car washes at two different sites; paint and patient visits at the Forest Hill Nursing Home in South Jackson; surveying, cleaning, and a

garage sale at My Father's House, Jackson; spring cleaning and landscaping at the Richard Wright Branch Library in Jackson; a Backyard Bible Club at Southside Terrace Apartments in South Jackson; interacting with patients at the Trinity Mission Health & Rehab in Clinton; patient visits and landscaping at the Willow Creek Retirement Center in Byram, among others.

Marly Perkins, from Mt. Horeb Church in Collins was with the group that ministered at the Country Oaks Mobile Home Park. "We just want to help people in need," she said. "We enjoy coming out and helping people less fortunate."

"Our Acteens group at church wanted to come and help out today," said Michaela Welford, a 7th grader from Rocky Creek Church, George-Green Association. "This is my first year doing something like this."

"We decided to come help this year to tell people about Christ and how serving the Lord can be fun," said Kennedy Hudson, an 8th grader from Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto. "I want the kids in our church to know from my experience that we can make a difference."

One mission project was to be a free car wash offered at the Mazzio's in Byram. When the team showed up, there was an inner city of young boys already set up there offering a car wash to raise money for a basketball camp. The store manager, realizing he had "double booked" the parking lot, suggested the two groups do the car wash together. The mission group offered to help the basketball group raise money, and the leader of the basketball group readily agreed. The mission group realized that they had a group of thirty kids from the inner city that they were going to have the opportunity to spend the day with.

One group ministered to a couple by helping with landscaping and cleaning up at their home. The husband had been diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease and wasn't able to work in his yard as he once had. "It was great for the couple to be reminded that God hadn't forgotten about them in the midst of all the suffering they'd been going through," Anderson said.

Working at the car wash at Mazzio's, Jackson Lott, from Central Church in Carriere, said, "God called me to do this, so I just did what He asked me to do."

## Staff Changes



Ralph Hunt has been called as pastor of **Doty Springs Church, Attala Association**. Shown are Hunt and his wife Barbara.



**FIRST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT**, has called Joshua Baker as youth minister.

**BELOW** Gary Linville has been called as pastor of **FIRST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT**. Shown are Linville and his wife Heather.



## - Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## MISSISSIPPI

cont. from p. 1

Six of the ten least religious states are in New England.

Mississippi, where Southern Baptists hold a clear lead in congregants and churches, led the way with 59% of its citizens labeled very religious, followed by Utah (57%), Alabama (56%), Louisiana (54%), Arkansas (54%), South Carolina (54%), Tennessee (52%), North Carolina

(50%), Georgia (48%) and Oklahoma (48%).

According to the 2010 Annual of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the most current for which figures are available, total membership in Mississippi Baptist churches is 697,417. There are 2,127 Mississippi Baptist churches listed in the annual, with a small variance from year to year.

Vermont and New Hampshire each had only 23% of respondents labeled as very religious. That was followed by Maine

(25%), Massachusetts (28%), Alaska (28%), Oregon (30%), Nevada (30%), Washington (30%), Connecticut (31%), District of Columbia (32%), New York (32%) and Rhode Island (32%).

Nationwide, 40% of Americans are considered very religious. The pattern of religiosity, the survey said, has remained stable in recent years.

"It appears there is something about the culture and normative structure of a state, no doubt based partly on that state's history, that affects its residents' propensity to attend religious services and to declare that religion is important in their daily lives," the Gallup report observed.

The report also included an interesting side note: "Religion is related to politics in today's America, and it is clear from a glance at Gallup's State of the States map that the most religious states in the union generally are the most Republican, while the least religious states skew more toward the Democratic Party."

"This means that the most divided states — and thus, those where most of the heavy-duty campaigning in this year's presidential election will be taking place — are the ones where residents tend to be neither at the very religious nor at the nonreligious end of the spectrum."

For more details on the study, visit <http://www.gallup.com/poll/153479/Mississippi-Religious-State.aspx>.

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

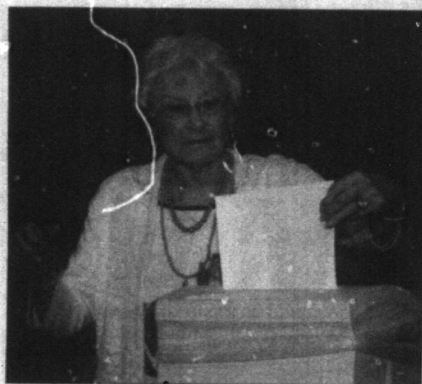
ZPX BC VZKX EPJH BCI, XZENBJCI, JBT  
YZKJB BZJB UZXC JBCC OBHQC NH KP  
SCZGC, ZPX AC OBHQC HY JBT SQZNEC.  
UZIR YKFC: JBKIJT-YHEI

Clue: X = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twelve: Two

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Just for the Record



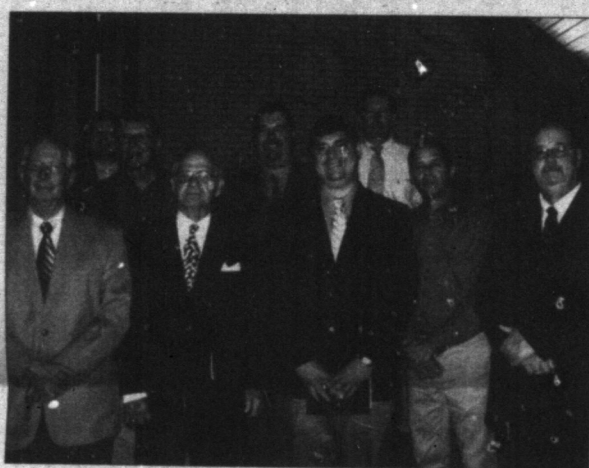
**GRACEWOOD CHURCH, SOUTHAVEN,** paid off the loan on its \$1,402,990 Family Life Center Feb. 29. Shown is Jeanne Allen shredding the note Mar. 11.




**CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION,** held a Baptist Men's Day with guest speaker Chris Shinall, teacher and coach at Pine Grove High School. Shown are Shinall and pastor Robert E. Walker.



Ruth Simpson of **HARMONY CHURCH, WALNUT,** is shown with a dress she made for a child on the mission field. To date, Simpson has made 1,012 girl's dresses, 265 boy's short pants and 18 baby blankets for children in Honduras, Guatemala, and Ecuador.



**PROGRESS CHURCH, PIKE ASSOCIATION,** ordained William Bird as deacon on March 18. Present at the ordination service were (back row, from left) Steve Clark, Hollis Alford, David Bird, Chuck Rimes, (front row, from left) Marlin Rimes, Bob Lynch, William Bird, Howard Alford, and Glenn Bird.



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## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

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**ABCHomes seeks servant-minded people who are called to a ministry, not just a job.**

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes (ABCHomes) is seeking houseparent couples for the Baptist Home in Monticello, Ark., Boys Ranch in Harrison, Ark., and the Emergency Receiving home in Judsonia, Ark. These full-time

**abc**  
arkansas baptist children's homes

positions include salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. For information: Children's Home, contact Randy Luper 870.367.5358 or [rluper@abchomes.org](mailto:rluper@abchomes.org); Boys Ranch, contact Bill VanderMeulen 870.741.5784 or [bvandermeulen@abchomes.org](mailto:bvandermeulen@abchomes.org); Judsonia Emergency shelter, contact Sean Culpepper 501.495.8554 or [sculpepper@abchomes.org](mailto:sculpepper@abchomes.org)

ABCHomes is seeking a case manager for the Baptist Home in Monticello. Contact Luper, 870.367.5358 or [rluper@abchomes.org](mailto:rluper@abchomes.org).



## Be Confident of the Resurrection • Luke 24:13-35

Our little part of the world has suffered a devastating loss. A very charismatic young girl lost her battle with cancer at the age of 10. Situations like this bring out hard questions and hard feelings. If we have not resolved life and death in our own hearts, we are no good to others in times like this. A ready answer to a hard question can turn this child's sacrifice into eternal life for a new believer. A loss can either be a victory or it can keep us defeated and useless.

We cannot deal with the subject of life until we have dealt with the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. If you think about it, everything that we believe hinges on this. If Jesus did not literally die and then come out of the grave, what confidence could we have that He can bring us out as well? That circumstance would require blind faith and, as I have stated before, I do not believe God asks us to believe anything without also giving sufficient proof. As for the resurrection:

**Consider the Possibility (Luke 24:15, 18-24)** Besides the Apostles, there was an outer ring of disciples that followed Jesus from place to place. Two of these are mentioned here on the day when the empty tomb is discovered. They are perplexed to say the least and very narrow minded on their interpretation of events despite what

Jesus taught them. In their minds, this is bad news and it can be nothing but bad news. Jesus does not quite see it that way.

**Examine the Scripture (Luke 24:25-27)** Jesus did not then appear and say, "hey... it is me... take my word for it..." Over thousands of years, God carefully

crafted the scriptural references to the life and resurrection of His son in a manner to eliminate all possibility of coincidence. It is one thing for one prophet to predict something, it is another for prophets that lives hundreds of years apart to predict different aspects of the same event and none of the accounts contradict one another. We see the Bible as one book but it is a collection of books that were authored over thousands of years. There are thousands of historic documents from different eras and continents that reference Jesus and the resurrection. No



### Explore the Bible

with Kelly Mitchell

other event in history has been so scrutinized and so harshly critiqued yet has still endured. Believe it.

**Trust the Lord (Luke 24:30-32)** Although Jesus provided sufficient scriptural evidence of His fate, He did not leave room for question. He revealed

His true self to them at the table. If you read on, when He appears to the remaining Apostles He still did not just say, "It's me... take my word for it." He showed them the holes in His hands and feet. He let them touch and examine Him to resolve their questions. He needed them to put this behind them and never doubt it. In John 16 He warned them all of this would happen but that it was a good thing. This experience would give them confidence and keep them from falling away under later testing.

**Rejoice with Others (Luke 24:33-35)** You know, Jesus is not a secret. He did not show Himself to people that would keep what they saw and heard a secret. We are not called to entrust Him only to the trustworthy, familiar, and properly trained. He wants to ignite in us an excitement that causes spontaneous worship; an uncontrollable outcry of joy and acknowledgement of God. Most importantly, He wants us to go and tell it with confidence and authority.

How can God take the life of an innocent? It is bad news only if we make it so by our response. Look at all the people that would have never had the gift of knowing this precious child if she had not gotten sick. Look at the doors opened to explain how she is better off than all of us and it is possible to see her again.

**For Class Discussion:** Discuss "bad" things in your church and community and take ideas for perspective changes to turn them into victory? What should life look like for one that is confident in Jesus, the resurrection, and that Jesus will bring them out of the grave? What are your obstacles to living in such a way?

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.

## Jesus Rose from the Dead • Matthew 27:62-66, 28:5-8, Luke 24:13-16, 32-33, 35

On a cool, sunny day in November, my husband, Charles, and I were standing in Jerusalem on a gravel path looking up at the traditional Place of the Skull. We'd heard about that place and it does look like the eyes and mouth of a skull! But, what really got our attention were the three crosses on the mountain just above the skull. They looked rugged and used. A little while later, we went back down the path to a quiet garden blooming with new life. How appropriate. On one side was the tomb. We were invited to look inside. I knew what I would see...nothing, just a rock platform where Jesus Christ is believed to have been laid. Tears rolled down my cheeks but the guide started telling the glorious true story of Christ's promised resurrection! His face shone with the proclamation, "He's not here! He has risen!" (Matthew 28:6) Everyone was smiling! The sun seemed to light up the whole garden in honor of the Son of God.

### Proof of a Guarded Tomb Matthew 27:62-66

The day of Preparation was Friday, the day before the Jewish Sabbath. All cleaning, and cooking was done on that day. The Chief Priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate the next day. They were convinced that Jesus was dead, but they wanted to be sure

His followers didn't steal His body and try to show that He came back to life like He said He would. They reminded Pilate that Jesus had said He would rise again after three days. They asked Pilate to order procedures to secure the tomb until the third day. "OK," he answered. "Take a guard and show him how to secure the tomb." Feeling satisfied, they made sure a seal was put on the huge stone. They told the guard to stay alert and watch for robbers. (vv. 65-66) That would be proof that Jesus didn't arise on the third day.

### Proof of an Empty Tomb Matthew 28:5-8

The day Jesus was crucified was long. Faithful women stood near the cross and went to the burial. They were the last to leave the tomb area. On Sunday morning, according to Mark's and Luke's Gospels, they returned to the tomb early to take spices and anoint Jesus' body. Nearing the

tomb, they were surprised at what they saw: An earthquake, and an angel from heaven who rolled the stone from the entrance of the tomb, then sat on it. All this caused the Roman guard to tremble and fall to the ground unconscious. How would you feel? The Angel saw the women were astonished. He comforted them by saying, "Don't be

afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He's not here; He has risen just as He said! Look inside the tomb where He was laid." They could see the tomb was empty. The angel voiced a final instruction to the women: "Go quickly and tell His disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and He's going ahead of you into Galilee. I have told you this: You will see Him." (v. 7) The women were the first to hear and see proof of Jesus' promise to arise from the tomb. I can imagine them holding on to their spices and hurrying to tell the truth about the proof of the resurrection!



### Bible Studies for Life

with Betty Davis

### Proof of Eyewitness Account Luke 24:13-16, 32-33, 35

Later that same Sunday, two believers were walking to Emmaus (eh MAY uhs), a village about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were discussing all that had happened. While they were recalling all these things, Jesus came near and walked with them, but they were prevented from recognizing Him. Jesus asked, "What are you talking about?" Clopas answered, "Haven't you heard?" The two men sadly shared all that had been done to Jesus. Jesus shared what the scriptures said concerning Himself. He was invited to stay in their home. As He broke bread and gave thanks, they recognized Him and He disappeared. The men were touched by what Jesus said about the Scriptures. They immediately returned to Jerusalem and shared how they recognized Jesus. Have you experienced Joy in personally knowing Jesus? His resurrection is proof that redemption has been accomplished. God was pleased with the work of His Son." (W.A. Criswell) Today, we observe a holiday in memory of the resurrection. Does Easter have this special meaning in your life?

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Chunky Church, Chunky:** Youth revival, Apr. 29 - May 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Permenter, speaker.

► **Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, Apr. 15; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Ted Bowlin, speaker.

► **Calvary Church, Columbia:** Homecoming, Apr. 22; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Chad Davis, speaker; Gerald Simmons, music.

► **Immanuel Church, Natchez:** Revival, Apr. 27 - 29; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Don Lum, Jim Futral, and Roy Tidwell, speakers.

► **Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** Revival, Apr. 15 - 18; Sun., 10 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; John Cockrell, speaker.

► **First Church, Rannelstown:** Revival, Apr. 15 - 18; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Roland McMillan, speaker; Jim Poe, music.

# Starbucks slammed for anti-marriage campaigns

**SEATTLE (BP)** — One of the nation's leading traditional marriage groups is calling for a boycott of the Starbucks coffee chain because of the company's longtime support for homosexual marriage and its opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Dump Starbucks protest by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) was announced March 21, the same day the organization launched a DumpStarbucks.com website where supporters could sign a petition to Starbucks, tell their friends via social media about the boycott, and even enter their zip code to learn of alternatives to Starbucks.

NOM President Brian Brown said in an email to supporters that NOM "does not take this step lightly." NOM representatives, including Maggie Gallagher, attended the Starbucks shareholders meeting Wednesday to challenge the company's position, but nothing was done, Brown said.

NOM was a leading group in reversing homosexual marriage laws in California and Maine.

"A portion of every cup of coffee purchased at a Starbucks anywhere in the world goes to fund this corporate assault on marriage," Brown wrote.

"Voters in thirty US states have voted to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. No state vote has ever

supported gay marriage. In many areas of the world where Starbucks does business, the concept of 'gay marriage' is unheard of and deeply offensive to cultural, moral, and religious values."

The boycott is also aimed at Seattle's Best Coffee and Evolution Fresh Juices, which are owned by Starbucks.

In a Jan. 24 memorandum to "U.S. partners," Starbucks Executive Vice President Kalen Holmes said the company was "proud to join other leading Northwest employers in support of Washington State legislation recognizing marriage equality for same-sex couples."

The bill passed and was signed into law but is being challenged by churches via a voter initiative, and could be overturned in November.

"This important legislation is aligned with Starbucks business practices and upholds our belief in the equal treatment of partners," Holmes wrote. "It is core to who we are and what we value as a company."

Last fall, Starbucks signed onto a legal brief urging the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold a ruling that reversed part of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. If the decision is upheld, the federal government would be forced to recognize homosexual marriages from any state where the practice is legal.

Additionally, Starbucks scored a perfect "gay friendly" rating of 100 in the Human

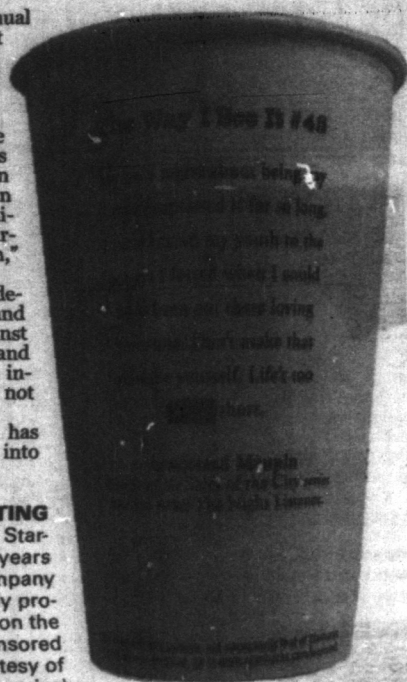
Rights Campaign (HRC) annual Corporate Equality Index last year. The HRC score was not mentioned in Brown's email.

"We are urging consumers across the globe to 'Dump Starbucks' because the massive international corporation has taken a corporate-wide position that marriage between one man and one woman should be eliminated and that same-sex marriage should become the norm," Brown wrote.

"As such, Starbucks has declared it will use its influence and resources in a culture war against at least half its US customers, and against the vast majority of its international consumers who do not share Starbucks' position."

The company, Brown said, has "intentionally inserted itself into the debate."

## IS STARBUCKS PROMOTING HOMOSEXUALITY? — A Starbucks campaign several years ago featured an official company coffee cup with an overtly pro-homosexuality message on the side. Baptist Press has censored an expletive. (BP photo courtesy of Concerned Women for America)



## College News

► The William Carey University School of Education recently received recognition for its teacher education program being approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education under the new Blue Ribbon Redesign for Teacher Education. The department celebrated this achievement with a department luncheon at Conestoga Steakhouse in Hattiesburg on March 23.

► Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will serve as the keynote speaker at Mississippi College's annual spring scholarship dinner Apr. 17, 6:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$200; deadline for purchase is Apr. 10. For more information, contact Amy Rowan at (601) 925-3257.

► Mississippi College is sponsoring the Mississippi College Endurance Challenge, a race for runners and bikers to benefit the MC chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. Apr. 14 at the MC Cross Country Team course off McRaven Road in Clinton. Costs to enter are \$25 for the 5K, and \$40 for the duathlon (5K run, 12K bike race/2K run). There is a \$10 fee for boys and girls doing a one-mile fun run. There is a relay option for the duathlon for \$75. Participants can register at the Bike Crossing in Ridgeland or at Stinky Feet in Flowood. Main registration closes Apr. 12, with registration also available on site Apr. 14 from 6 - 7 a.m. For more information, contact Justin Pigott at jpigott@fca.org.

## Just for the Record



**INDIAN SPRINGS CHURCH, LAUREL**, recognizes its 2012 children's Bible drill team. Shown, front row, are Hope Polk, Caroline Smith, Lexi Chandler, Emma Fiala, Emily Harrelson, Melanie McLaurin, and Makenzie Glasscock; back row, Kaitlyn Smith, Parker Robinson, Luke Hawkins, Jack Taylor, Haden Boyd, Christian Coker, and Kim Smith.



**THRASHER CHURCH, BOONEVILLE**, ordained Tony Christian and Jerry Cox as deacons Mar. 25. Shown are pastor Doug Rakestraw, Cox, Christian, and director of missions Ben Parman.

The WMU of **PEARLHAVEN CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, made 225 salvation dolls to send to Mexico with a couple from the church. The couple went with the Tri-County Missions group. Shown are some of the participants. Anthony Yarbrough, pastor.



**RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MONEY**, licensed Lynn Welch to the gospel ministry. Shown are Welch and chairman of deacons Arvell Youngblood.

## In other Church News:

► **Ramah Church, McCall**, will have a 5th Sunday singing Apr. 29, 6 p.m., featuring the group Ms/La with Charles Case.

► The puppet ministry of **Tangipahoa Church, Summit**, will perform Our Chains Are Broken at Kingston United Methodist Church, Natchez, Apr. 14, 6 p.m. For more information about the ministry, call (601) 341-1314.